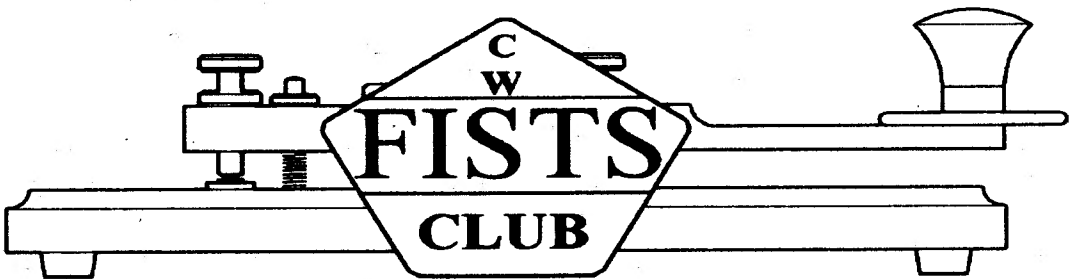


# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the  
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS , You've Worked A Friend"

## HOW DO I...

**...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$3.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage.

**...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 10 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at [n7cfa@kalama.com](mailto:n7cfa@kalama.com)

**...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST?** Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to [blafont@tir.com](mailto:blafont@tir.com)

**...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via-BURO?** Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is [stanreas@rev.net](mailto:stanreas@rev.net)

**...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION?** Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. *What's the Family Plan?* All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

**...SPONSOR A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

**...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS?** Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD?** Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs: There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

**...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory, Grayslake IL 60030

**...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE?** Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

**...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

**...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** Contact Joe KK5NA at [KK5NA@quadj.com](mailto:KK5NA@quadj.com) or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

**...FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at [bjmyers@arc.net](mailto:bjmyers@arc.net)

**...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

**...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email [nv5a@aol.com](mailto:nv5a@aol.com)

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com) WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

# North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682

Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720

Century Award Net: Sunday 2000Z on 14.058MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! It's supposed to be Spring but you'd never know it looking out my shack window. There are at least four inches of snow on the ground. My Rescue League Bouvier, Peaches, just loves the snow. She's about 18 months old and is just having a ball running circles around my older Bouvier, Smoke, who will be 14 in June. Smoke's photo is in the Photopages with my picture. At least the snow helps me keep an eye on Peaches while she's outside. Her hair is pitch black and she really stands out against the white of the snow. If only I could bottle her energy...

The Fall Sprint results are in. I'm very pleased with the turn out, it's the best ever! It kept our Sprint Manager Tom ACSJH busy for quite a while. The general consensus is "a good time was had by all".

I did receive some comments from people who were disappointed that it wasn't more of a contest feel to the Sprint. They have a point in that you shouldn't launch into a full blown chat during a four hour Sprint, but I personally don't think it hurts to take a minute to say thanks for the contact, or nice to see you again or quickly arrange to meet someone on the frequency after the Sprint has ended. FISTS activities are meant to get people on the air to have fun. To some people, that is interpreted as cut-throat contesting. I don't have a problem with being competitive, I used to enjoy contesting myself (back when FISTS had a couple hundred members and I had time to get on the air, hi!) and understand the impatience with people who give you their life story during a serious contest. But there are dozens of "real" contests scattered out thru the year. For the FISTS activities, how about bringing it down a peg or two, take a deep breath and get on the air just for the fun

of chasing down FISTS members? I'm not saying you should engage in long chats, but don't be upset if someone gives more info than the exchange requires. Just say thanks for the info, hope to CUL or something similar and go on to the next contact.

There were a lot of comments about making the Sprint a seasonal activity, I wonder if the interest is really out there? Or would it dilute the amount of activity if there were 4 Sprints?

I have to check the ARRL contest calendar to make sure there are no conflicts, but I'm thinking of adding one the second weekend in January (we have the NR in February), and August. *Let's have a vote - if you'd like two more Sprints (Summer and Winter) drop Tom ACSJH a note at 4346 Rose Garden Cir, Zachary LA, 70791. While you're at it, add your two cents - are the Sprints too casual, should they be more contest-like in the exchange?*

The winning certificates haven't been sent out yet, so please be patient on that. Thanks to Tom for tabulating the results. The Spring Sprint is coming up May 9 1700Z-2100Z so mark your calendar!

I hope you read David Sumner's editorial in the April QST, The Joy Of CW. I send ARRL HQ a copy of the KeyNote each month, suppose they're reading it and taking the FISTS philosophy to heart? It sounded like it to me! I don't care why they are changing their tune and printing pro-CW articles now all of a sudden, I hope just they stick by it. We can't afford to get complacent about keeping CW, I hear some nasty rumors flying about. Keep your letter-writing pens handy, we may need you to write the FCC and your ARRL Director in the near future.

Now, let's get on with the KeyNote....

# Welcome to the New FISTS

Call	Name	#	Sponsor	State
W7DAZ	Johannie	4509		WA
KC0AGH	Mike	4510	AL7GQ	CO
K4EQH	Tom	4511	W8LHG	AL
KP3X	Pedro J.	4512	NP4FW	PR
KB8TO	Bill	4513		OH
W9MDI	Jack	4514		FL
AE4NW	Rick	4515	webpage	KY
W2SZR	Monroe	4516	W3ZVT	FL
W0ZQJ	Ken	4517		MN
N8BVY	Rich	4518	W7GB	MI
K4ESW	Stan	4519	W2LOB	TN
W1GN	Dave	4520	WA3PTY	NH
N8QYO	Joe	4521	KA4IFF	MI
N9PM	Phil	4522	K5HLR	IL
W9SUL	Dave	4523	K3QA	MN
KB3CCQ	Ken	4524	WA2OVT	PA
W2YQV	Ralph	4525	AB2AU	NY
KC8FTN	Mike	4526	K8CVC	WV
KA1DDB	Mike	4527	webpage	MI
W8PBX	Al	4528	W4HZD/WB5NKC	OH
AE4JD	Richard	4529	AC6TO	FL
KA9WAC	Patrick	4530	W4HZD	WI
VE1VEI	Lloyd	4531	KB8NTE	NS
N9EXY	Barbara	4532	K10KM	IL
KC4IYD	Nancy	4533	AC6QO	OH
N3VIV	Gordon	4534	N9JIY	PA
N4ALG	Bill	4535		KY
WA2PH	Joseph	4536	K5APB	NY
WD4KUZ	Kuz	4537	webpage	KY
KF4UNX	Greg	4538	KA1RVV	GA
KA1VRP	Clifford	4539	AI9L	MA
W6HEA	Alan	4540		CA
N2YCW	John	4541	KE4TSS	NY
KC2BBE	Gladys	4542	KE4TSS	NY
AC6LP	Marc	4543	AC6Q	CA
W8GND	Jerry	4544	KG9KK	MI
W7MAF	Neil	4545		ID
KN0I	Jerry	4546	W2GR	MO
W0LQ	Ralph	4547	W8LH	CO
KG2HK	Mark	4548	VE3ZBB	NY
KA7PLE	Mike	4549	webpage	OR
AL7JK	John	4550	webpage	AK
N1ZRA	Neal	4551	KC8BSC	VT
AA9TC	Nick	4552	WD8OCV	IL
N0CI	Alvin	4553	AC5JH	CO
VE5DC	Jerry	4554	KB4OPV	SK
AB5ZD	Bob	4555	KF4NYZ	LA
KF4ONA	Jon	4556	W6DDB	TN

Call	Name	#	Sponsor	State
WA7FXH	Bill	4557	WD0AXP	NV
KC7TCK	Carrol	4558	WD0AXP	NV
VE3SO	Peter	4559	webpage	ONT
KB8NKP	Don	4560	WG8W	MI
WA7QJY	Carl	4561	AB5YY	WA
KD5DJU	Suzy	4562	AC5GG	TX
KH7M	Jim	4563	webpage	HI
K1MBX	Roger	4564		VT
AC5FR	Pat	4565	WB2FXX	OK
KK5FX	Regina	4566	WB2FXX	OK
KB1CFC	Harry	4567	VE5HQ	CT
KE0Z	Will	4568	N2QZQ	SD
WD5EOF	Harry	4569	K5HLR	TX
KF6NJQ	Denny	4570	AD6EF	CA
WA3NRC	Harold	4571		PA
VE8XU	Alan	4572	N9TU	NW Territories
VA3HU	Hew	4573	WA0RSX	ONT
AD6CC	Mike	4574	KC7QOP	CA
WA9ZPC	Dan	4575	W6DDB	WI
VE7PEB	Eric	4576	W8BL	BC
KA4WTB	Darris	4577	WS0L	TN
W2LKT	Dom	4578	KA8YRV	NJ
NB2D	Joe	4579	W12G	NY
WA6FGV	Ron	4580	W4HZD	CA
N5JCG	Mel	4581	AB5YY	MS
N2AJZ	Vincent	4582	K8EHE	NY
WA6YWA	Bill	4583	KC7QOP	CA
KK6OC	Art	4584	webpage	CA
NQ6B	Tom	4585	K7FD	CA
AC6FI	John	4586	N4ZMP	CA
CYWK/CZDO	Paul	4587	K8UGL	NS
WA8WTV	Lori	4588	K7TFW	OH
KC5T	Robert	4589		TX
WA8YPY	Ruth	4590	AC6TO	MI
N3BNV	Frank	4591	AC4NW	NJ
KA3HMD	Michele	4592	AC4NW	NJ
KC2BCQ	Tina	4593	AC4NW	NJ
N9BOR	Mike	4594	N1WL	IL
N7YY	Bernie	4595	N3EU	MT
W9DU	Uke	4596	KG9KK	WI
W1SOI	Leo	4597	AB2AU	MA
KB7ET	Jim	4598	K5HLR	TX
KK5VH	John	4599	AF5Z	TX
AE6TT East Bay Contest Club		4600	K7GT	CA
K5KWD	Bert	4601	N2WCR	TX
KD4BAM	Jim	4602	KF4GNV	TN
WA3EZR	Bernie	4603	WD8OVC	PA
WA9WNE	Terry	4604	K5HLR	IL
K8GAO	Ronald	4605	W4BX	WV

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>AA8DD</u>	<u>Bob</u>	<u>4654</u>	<u>N3ZGZ</u>	<u>MI</u>
KA3QNO	Jim	4606	N4ZMP	MD	WA1CFX	Howard	4655	K1MBX	MA
W3KQ	Rick	4607	W6DDB	DE	K6JS	Joe	4656	K5HLR	CA
WB7EPC	Jack	4608	webpage	AZ	W5OU	Gordon	4657	KB4AUK	OK
KB9OLD	Steve	4609	KB9IWH	IL	KB0UNI	Tracy	4658		CO
NG3A	Don	4610	AA3LX	PA	K8MIA	James	4659	K8KFJ	WV
KF8NS	Dean	4611	KI8CZ	MI	VE3CRO	Rudy	4660	K5HLR	BC
K4DAJ	Tom	4612	WB0YPO	GA	KP3AN	William	4661	W3RMD	PR
KB9CHC	Mark	4613	AA9LS	WI	N2YKX	Andrew	4662	KB9MZK	NY
KC8BYF	James	4614	W7VWV	OH	K0CEU	Bill	4663	KE3CR	KS
VE3JIF	Juergen	4615	WB2YOP	ONT					
NO0R	Claude	4616	KB7ZO	KS					
WA2FJK	Francis	4617	WB2FXK	NY					
N6ES	Bill	4618	W6DDB	CA					
N0XTN	Kent	4619	KE1AF	MN					
KC5IQP	Mary	4620		KS					
WA2DAC	Lynn	4621	W9LUY, W8LFT,						
NI2H, KD4UZR,	W5RPS, W0NNW,		K4NK/more	NY					
KB2LML	Al	4622	AA1SU	NY					
K0UB	Bill	4623	K7CDN	ND					
K5ABF	George	4624	webpage	TX					
KB9LHW	Miike	4625	KO6RU	WI					
W9KMP	Ken	4626	webpage	IL					
VE7GAF	Hank	4627	WB2FXK	BC					
NA3V	Jim	4628	K3WWP	PA					
N9FGC	Jake	4629	W2GR	IN					
KB5DKW	Ronny	4630	N5JCG	MS					
K1KF	Kenet	4631	KF6GUH	ME					
KB5VCC	CJ	4632	KC5MDD	MS					
W1JX	Bobbie	4633	N1WL/N1YK	ME					
W1QU	Tom	4634	N1WL/N1YK	ME					
W0AAU	Harry	4635	W6DDB/W3JIM	MN					
W8DP	Dallas	4636	NE0C	WV					
KC0BSB	Eric	4637	webpage	MN					
KN4SX	Gil	4638	WJ0C	VA					
N6RXQ	Bill	4639	N4VEF	CA					
K8CV	Walt	4640	W8SFF	MI					
WB2PYU	Paul	4641	AC6TO	NY					
N6RQL	Doug	4642	W7CDC	CA					
KA2EWH	Bill	4643	KA4IFF	NJ					
W5USU	Bill	4644	N1VWD	TX					
KB8WGX	Glen	4645	KC8BDM	OH					
W4YGE	Chalme	4646	WA4LDQ	TN					
N1WNT	Lou	4647	WB1FLA	MA					
W8GX	Keith	4648	AC4AS	OH					
NS3O	George	4649	W9DU	PA					
N4EO	Jerry	4650	N4KN	TN					
KB8LEE	Joseph	4651		OH					
AJ1X	Mark	4652	webpage	CT					
K4NIC	Leonard	4653	KE4QZB	VA					

### Photopage Winner

The March Photopage winner, chosen in a computer generated random drawing from all who submitted their photo for the FISTS photopages, is Mitch **W4OA**. Mitch wins a supply of FISTS stickers and a FISTS patch just for sending in his photo! You have a chance to be our lucky winner next month - send in your photo today.

### Congratulations!

To Melissa **KK7AA** on her upgrade to Extra!  
 To Nick **N3YVW** #3549 on his upgrade to Extra!  
 To Johnny **KU4OZ** #2129 on his upgrade to Extra!  
 To John **KG9MT** #3804 on his upgrade to Advanced!  
 To Al **KG9MN** #3480 on his upgrade to Advanced!  
 To Larry **WN4DX** #3345 on his upgrade to Extra!  
 Hugh #4297 has passed his Novice/Tech plus and has his callsign, **KF4WAS** - Congrats Hugh!  
 To Dave **KF6DCU** #2398 on passing the Advanced test and the 20 wpm code test!  
 To Roy **N3ZGZ** #3544 for upgrading to Advanced!

### Call Changes

Linda **KB1BMO**, #3847 is now **KK1C**  
 Johnny **KE4ZQD**, #2129 is now **KU4OZ**  
 John **KC5ZQX**, #3804 is now **KG9MT**  
 Al **KB9MUU**, #3480 is now **KG9MN**  
 John **KD8JOH** is now **W8JOH**  
 Larry **WN4DXL**, #3345 is now **WN4DX**  
 Geo **KO4YV** #2667 is now **W4GEO**  
 Art **AD6B** #4372 is now **K7ZE**.  
 Doug **KD4HRT** #4082 is now **N4CQD**  
 Rob **W4CW** #3673 is now **N4UFO**  
 Ermon **KD7EL** #2085 is now **W7MIO**  
 Mike **VE2MJE** #2156 is now **VE2XJ**

**CORRECTIONS are on page 23**

Included in each issue of the KeyNote is a page titled "How Do I..." It covers where and how to get things like FISTS supplies, have info about FISTS sent to friends, all sorts of things. But it's impossible to cover every possible question that comes up on one page reference sheet, so I'll try to devote a space each Key-Note to questions and answers that come up.

Stan, K4UK, from the FISTS QSL Bureau sends along a couple of interesting questions he received concerning QSL cards:

**Question:** Is it acceptable to the FISTS QSL Bureau to use the back side of a QSL card for a short note?

**Answer:** We have no problem with personalized notes anywhere on either side of the card, as long as the call of the station addressed to is legible.

**Question:** Is it acceptable to the FISTS QSL Bureau to make attachments to a QSL card (i.e. eyeball card or photos).

**Answer:** We have forwarded letters and photos in envelopes which have been paper clipped or taped to QSL cards. This also is no problem, but the envelope (or any attachment) should have the call sign put on it. Then, if it gets separated from the card, we can still get it in the right SASE. Of course we don't want the attachments to get out of hand. The Bureau's main job is to see that QSL cards are distributed.

Our main concern is that the Call Sign of the station to which the card is being sent be clear and legible! You'd be surprised at the number of cards where we have to guess at the call sign. Sometimes we have to consult the FISTS mailing list to determine who it might be. Of course, if you include their FISTS number, it makes it easier to determine to whom it should be directed.

### SUPPLY NOTES

FISTS mugs are still out of stock. Please do not send orders for these! When we're restocked, the info will be in the KeyNote

The prices listed for the stickers, pins, patch, and stamp are the total prices - postage costs are already figured in.

*Are you interested in another style of patch? Or maybe a decal? Let me (Nancy WZ8C) know what logo items you may be interested in having available to show your support for FISTS.*

Things are shaping up for Dayton! Geo, G3ZQS, FISTS founder has his plane reservations and will be staying in Michigan with Brian W8BL during his visit to the USA.

Charlie KA8OUF, wants to remind you that FISTS have top priority when it comes to operating his Official Special Event Station during the Hamvention. Geo has already signed up for a turn at the key, so don't be shy! Contact Charlie and reserve your spot before April 25. His address is 26 Mellow Ave, Dayton OH 45410

Tony Perera, W1TP, will again be bringing his museum of over 500 telegraph keys dating from before the Civil War to the present to the Dayton Hamfest Fleamarket Area.

Bring your old or unusual telegraph keys, photographs, or materials to Tom for: History, Identification, Trading, Appraisals, Adjustments, etc.

There will be a show-and-tell get-together and party for key collectors each day at Tom's tables at 4PM. Show off your "finds"...Find out what you "found", and perhaps do some trading. Free pretzels all day!

For a preview and the exact location at the hamfest, visit Tom's Telegraph Key Museum at <<http://w1tp.com>>

And of course, we have our FISTS get-together at the Crowne Plaza (ex-Stouffers) on Friday night starting about 7PM.

And we have our FISTS booth inside the Arena. I spend as much time as I can at the booth because I hate to miss the chance to meet FISTS who stop by, but it's nice to be able to get away and see some of the Hamvention. Your assistance in manning the booth is appreciated. We don't have a schedule because it's so hard to pin people down on times at an event like that. If you can help out, stop by the booth and let us know when you're ready.

We're looking forward to a record attendance of FISTS this year. There is a group of six or eight FISTS from the Cowlitz FISTS ARC in Washington as well as Geo "Father FISTS" coming in from England. I hope to see you there, too!

# Fists CW Club Fall Sprint Results 1997

<u>Call</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>Pt</u>	<u>Mult</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comments</u>
KD7AEE	450	36		16200	First Sprint
N2ED	368	34		12512	Enjoyed seeing more participation
K4MF	404	30		12120	
VP2VI	352	34		11968	
K5AX	358	29		10382	Need one per quarter...hi
W8EQA	298	32		9536	
WA7YYY	298	32		9536	Cowitz FISTS ARC
KC5VJU	285	25		7125	
K2ACW	283	25		7075	
AB2CE	279	24		6696	Wrote FB letter to go with log
AC6TO	232	27		6264	
AA8PJ	258	24		6192	Great way to spend a weekend, let's do it again this weekend!
K8EY	223	27		6021	W8BL / Brian Mich Fists Club Station
K6DF	213	23		4899	Nominate: N1YXU for smoothest fist
N1YXU	219	22		4818	
N3RSD	224	20		4480	Gave an interesting breakdown of QSO's by license class
N4ROA	187	23		4301	QRP
AA1KF	174	24		4176	Sprints are changing, getting to be all biz, (good or bad?)
KQ6ES	159	26		4134	
AF5Z	204	20		4080	QRP Argonaut to a delta loop
WA4KQL	176	22		3872	Hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did
W6DDB	181	17		3077	
K8OUA	151	20		3020	QRP
N1FN	146	18		2628	QRP
W3ERU	160	16		2560	Had fun as always
WA2BQI	145	16		2320	Had a ball, let's have more 4 hour sprints
W4HZD	144	16		2304	First Sprint....Enjoyed laid back style
KB5VTB	124	18		2232	
WD8OCV	131	16		2096	First Sprint... Really helped Century Award
K8UCL	119	17		2023	QRP
WA2VQV	117	17		1989	(*neatest handwritten log* Oh, those indoor antennas!
KF6GUH	100	18		1800	Great to hear action in Novice subbands
W9CC	110	15		1650	I heard lots of FISTS on the air
K2WP	107	15		1605	Tthought participation appeared "250% improved"
W5RPJ	111	14		1554	
N2QZQ	118	13		1534	First Sprint and first contest
KA1RVV/N	170	9		1530	Last Sprint as a Novice
KF6DCU	97	16		1552	
KA8OQF	95	15		1425	Platinum 85 .. Claims longest contest exchange
K3AS	106	13		1378	QRP 60 FT zigzag antenna in attic
K7ZYV	96	14		1344	First Sprint....A lot of fun
W4TVQ	87	15		1305	
AE2L	102	12		1224	Made all QSO's in Novice band
W2GK	102	12		1224	First Sprint
VE3JEG	107	11		1177	Had fun, Already received QSL'S via buro
K8FN	85	13		1105	
KS0M	77	13		1001	First Sprint

N8MG	76	13	988	
WD6CKT	85	11	935	Had a great time
W4IUI	77	11	847	
KB5IEU	72	11	792	
VE6ZAA	69	11	759	2 snows already, RF doesn't like to leave the shack
VA3JPN	65	11	715	Non-FISTS member
KB8OAZV/T	80	6	480	TECH+
AC5JH	45	9	405	QRP
KM4BR	42	7	294	QRP First Sprint
KU0KU	42	7	294	Not a FISTS member.....YET
K5ZTY	34	8	272	QRP First FISTS activity, enjoyed the feel of the Sprint
KF4HEE	50	5	250	TECH +
W8DYF	35	7	245	Not much time but enjoyed the Sprint
AE0Q	40	6	240	QRP Non-FISTS member
KB9KGI	33	7	231	
N2WF	30	5	150	
WB9MMI	27	5	135	Enjoyed it
K4MR	25	5	125	
AB7RK	30	4	120	
NU3E	30	4	120	
VE5HQ	30	3	90	QRP TECH+ included long letter about Sprint
KX8LL	22	4	88	QRP Only 1/2 Hour heard, Called the answered
VE3FMC	27	3	81	15 Minutes of Sprint time
W8KJ	20	4	80	
KE2FL	20	4	80	
N3CZB	5	1	5	You asked for it, only one contact, here it is
KM5EJ	5	1	5	New CW operator, mostly listened

### \*\*\* Special Event \*\*\*

To commemorate the aircraft carrier-launched B-25 WWII Raid led by Jimmy Doolittle 56 years ago on April 18, 1942, the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society ( SPARS ), of Plymouth, MI will be operating a Special Event Station from the Yankee Air Force Museum.

This museum at Willow Run Airport in Belleville, MI has 27 aircraft on display including a B-25D. B-25's were effective medium bombers of WWII, best remembered for their role in the Doolittle Raid against Japan. They were the first medium bombers to fly off of an aircraft carrier ( the USS Hornet ). Sixteen B-25's crewed by 80 men participated in the air attack. In addition to Tokyo, the planes bombed Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe. Although damage caused by the attack was relatively light, the mission avenged Pearl Harbor and was a tremendous moral booster for U.S. armed forces and civilians.

Bob AA8YO #3056 will be operating CW on 30 meters with a target frequency of 10.116. They've secured a special 1x1 callsign for the upcoming special event, N8D.

The response to the Fall Sprint was very good. Many Fists sent in their logs even though they did not make a lot of contacts. I really appreciate that because that is in keeping with the spirit of the Sprints. In a way, they are a contest and in way, they are not. We give points and keep score and someone will have the highest score, so in that respect, FISTS Sprints are contests. There are a lot of FISTS on the air at the same time calling "CQ Fists". A person has a great opportunity to work on a Century Award, meet a lot of new Fists or say hello to some old friends. That seems a little more like a reunion. We just happen to have it twice a year. With the phenomenal growth of the club, there are always plenty of new FISTS to log, no matter how you look at it. Whether you think of it as a CONTEST or just an afternoon of GREAT CW FUN, everyone enjoys the Sprints. Lot's of people included comments like Let's have more of them, when they sent in their logs. There is another one coming up May 9 and I am looking forward to it just as much as the last three that I have participated in. Hope to see a lot of you there. 73 AC5JH Tom Waits-Sprint Manager

## QRP With John Shannon K3WWP

Once again this month, your contributions make up my column. Thank you, and like the old saying goes, "Keep those cards and letters coming". I guess that should now include Emails. HI.

I worked Dick on the air, and he followed up our QSO with the following: Greetings John, I really enjoy your column in the Keynote. Your info on QRP operating is really interesting. I decided to get on QRP and purchased a kit from Ten Tec and started to do some kit building. The question I have is that have you any experiences with "Ten Tec" kits? Good luck and again, I enjoy reading your experiences in QRP. Sincerely, Dick **WD0HBW**.

No Dick, I have not had any experiences with any commercial transmitters (kits or otherwise) except for using my friend's QRP Plus rig. I build all my own transmitting gear from scratch. All I can say is that I have worked hams using just about every conceivable QRP kit, and they all sound very good. I have links to many of the QRP kit sites on my web site if you want to look for more info that way.

And Cal writes: I have enjoyed all your articles in the keynote. Keep up the good work. I am thinking of building a qrp kit and I would like you to tell me how to zero beat the other station. I have been zero beating my IC 737 by sending my side tone while adjusting the other stations tone to mine, this seems to work ok, but my Icom has a switch to take me out of the transmit mode. I don't think a qrp kit will be able to do this. Any help you can give will be appreciated.   
tx es 72-73 Cal. **AA8VM #2472**

Well Cal, that is something that is hard to answer because every rig is slightly different as far as zero beating goes. The case where a separate transmitter and receiver is used is the easiest to be sure you are exactly zero beat. You simply turn on the VFO portion of the transmitter and tune the VFO till your tone matches the signal you are listening to, and you are zero beat. With transceivers, it's somewhat more tricky, I think. When you tune in a station so that his tone is set to whatever the offset frequency is for that particular xcvr, you are zero beat. However, unless you have perfect pitch, it's hard to tell when that tone is 700 Hz, 800 Hz or whatever. And of course, you have to be sure to have all the incremental tuning gadgets (RIT, XIT, etc.) turned off when you do that or you will most likely not even be close to zero beat. I'd like to hear from those of you who use the commercial or kit xcvs with your tips on zero beating. It is something that needs to be learned. I often get answers to

my CQ's that are way off zero beat, and that shouldn't be unless the station is using a Xtal.

Next this from Corb, who writes often with always interesting info: Hi John, I would like your thoughts on something. Yesterday I received a QSL from OX/OZ8AE. On the back he indicated that he did not fill out the card using /QRP after my call since I had not used the QRP designation during our QSO. I seldom if ever use the /QRP designation and I never use it in contest or "pile up" situations. (I never use it either, Corb - it's not necessary - js) When I send out my QSL I indicate that I was operating QRP and describe my equipment. I don't request that my QRP status be acknowledged. Roughly half of the cards that I receive indicate K8UCL/QRP. The contests and awards that I'm aware of either take your word for QRP ops or don't recognize QRP at all. I suppose I should be concerned if trying for a 2xQRP award. And when I applied for WAC QRP I did make sure that I used cards that indicated QRP, since I had heard that the ARRL can be touchy about such things. Otherwise, do I need concern myself whether a QSL from someone has /QRP after my callsign ?

Nope. I know I used QRP when I worked someone. I don't need them to tell me I did by putting /QRP on my QSL. If they want to put it there, fine. If they request I put it after their call on a QSL, I'll do it. As far as I am personally concerned, if anyone doubts I used QRP, I don't care. If any awards demand my cards have /QRP on them, I just won't bother getting that award. As far as the ARRL goes, my WAC and WAS QRP awards/endorsements were gotten with regular cards without /QRP after my call.

Corb continues: Congrats on your RAC Winter Contest score. You'll probably take US honors again. I did OK - 58 QSOs with 18 multipliers. Might take 8th call area again, hope so, enjoy getting those certificates you know. You're doing a great job with your web site, it's coming along great. 73, Corb, **K8UCL**

Corb and I both had a ball in the ARRL DX contest with our QRP and simple wire antennas. I had 179 QSO's in 106 band-countries for my most ever in a DX contest. Corb had 92 QSO's in 60 multipliers. We both worked Romania for the first time (YO3APJ). Corb got HC2, PY0F, and LU1ZC (South Shetlands) for new countries also. He now has 114. I also got ES and LU1ZC (after the contest) for a total of 137. Proof you don't need much to work DX - just a little determination. Out of space. Remember my new web site address: <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan> -30-

**March 1:** NCS Stan AC6TO, N1WL, AC5P, KC5VJU, K4GEC, N5VC, K0HFC, K2SWZ, N1TP/QRP, WA6RND, KB7ZO, N5AF, W4OGZ, WB2HEK, KC5NRB, W9LUY.

**NCS Comments:** I would like to thank the net control stations for their hard work and for all the help with relay info from participating FISTS. The band changes around 2100 and all our signals become either much stronger or sometimes disappear all together.

**March 8:** NCS Jim KC5JVU, AC6TO, AA9KH, VE4GEC, N1TP/QRP, WA2VQV, N4VEF, AA7XQ

**NCS Comments:** The band had bad qm and lots of QRM. Was lucky to have as many check in as we did.

**March 15:** NCS Brian W8BL, N4VEF, KQ6NS, K7ZYV, AB5YY, KC5VJU, K7FD, AC6TO, N7IF, AC5P, K7FFF, KB5VTB, N1TP, K6FFF, K2IUC, N0IC, K0HFK

**NCS Comments:** Cndx: Poor to the East as usual. Band up and down. Had a couple checkins from 2 land but couldn't make them. Hopefully will improve after DST change.

### New 2 Meter CW Practice Net

The members of Rockford (IL) Amateur Radio Association has begun a CW Practice Net (Modulated CW) on the club's 147.000 MHz Repeater. The goal of this net is to allow those who don't know code to learn code for upgrading their class licenses. The practice net meets Monday Night at 8:30 PM. and Thursday Night at 7:30 PM. Central Time. At present, the net consists of character introduction, followed by 5 WPM copy going up to 10 WPM. WA9FFL is presently net control with N9ZUT (FISTS 3837) assisting as time permits. ALL area Hams are encouraged to check-in. 73 de Jeff N9ZUT # 3837

### Net Courtesy

*by Arley WB5NKC*

When a CW net is in progress on any band that we are listening to, it is not good operating procedures to start calling CQ right under or right above that net. A good net control station has to leave his filter off in order to hear the 'weak' stations that are a 'bit' off frequency so he can check them into the net. Anyone else listening to the net is not going to give you a call, because they are checked into that net and waiting for the net control to give them traffic or instructions.

Traffic is a message from one amateur sent to another amateur for delivery to a third party. This is the reason Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was able to talk our congress into letting the amateurs back on the air after the World War I. The navy was doing the communicating for the country and didn't want to let the amateurs back on the air. Hiram got a group of amateurs together and told the congress that the amateurs could do this very well. The second R in the ARRL means the 'relaying' of messages, or traffic. The ARTS net relays traffic for all, including messages to and from FISTS. Please give us a bit of room, and check in if you hear the net.

### Sunday Slow Speed Chat Group

Bill VE5HQ wrote to me, saying he would be interested in joining a slow ragchewing group or net on the weekend and asked if FISTS had one. We don't, so I suggested Bill start one! That's the way most of our activities get started, I'm infamous for putting people to work. We didn't want to infringe on the Century Award Net, even though that's a number exchange net, so we decided to try 15 meters on 21.158 at 1700 UTC.

Bill would like to hear from FISTS who are interested in being a net control station on a regular rotation basis. His Email address is <ve5hq@gpfn.sk.ca>

The details have to be worked out yet, but we envision something very casual as Bill says "This will definitely NOT be a black tie net...a bit of a ragchew/number exchange thing...so you might mention anyone thinking of helping just has to know CW at abt 10 wpm and be able to wear jeans in comfort. This will be a "S L O - N E T"...designed for those FISTS working toward their 13 wpm as well as those who just don't get into the faster CW...This net is for you!! You also have to like a bit of fun...no stuffed shirts allowed. Controllers must be patient and willing to work whatever speed between 5 and 10 wpm. Slow nets can be time consuming, so it may require one to operate for a few hours. Once the net shuts down, there is no law saying anyone has to leave the freq. NCS will more or less get things started...get a list of who's on freq., maintain some order. (we hope)...and then I'm sure all will fall into place."

It will take a while for the net to catch on, so if you don't hear anyone on frequency, put out a CQ FISTS call - there WILL be people listening for you!

If you read the Welcome to the New FISTS portion of the KeyNote this month, you probably noticed the callsign listed as CYWK/CZDO and wondered if I made a super typo. Well, I didn't; those are ships! Here is a letter of "explanation" from new FISTS member Paul DuMesnil. It's long, but I think it will be of interest, specially to those FISTS interested in maritime operation. In the text following, "tfc" is short for "traffic". Here is his story:

I'm probably the only permanently employed sea-going Radio Officer in Canada today. There are none that I know of on the very few (if any) deep-sea ships flying the Canadian flag and, on Gov't ships such as Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, there doesn't seem to be any (at least not attached to the vessel year-round) these days. Up until last Winter ('96-'97) I could still hear CW activity on 500kHz (calling & distress frequency in the medium-range) from a couple of Coast Guard ships. But none yet this season. In the Summer, there could be an operator carried on the large icebreakers which tour the Canadian Arctic but there again I am doubtful whether or not there is a RIO carried onboard any Coast Guard ship. So it could be that I AM THE ONLY RADIO OFFICER IN CANADA!

With Halifax Radio/VCS closing down all CW activities (both in MF and HF) and HF SSB (voice) thus completely eliminating long-range comms from Canada, I have had a terrible time trying to plug my traffic thru when outside the MF range of the former VCS's TXs which are now remote-controlled by Sydney Radio/VCO. What I've done so far is establish daily skeds with VCO, they answering on 446kHz CW and me on one of the HF CW bands (4, 6 or 8mHz and even on 2836kHz CW). It works as long as I'm willing to strain my ear trying to hear a MF signal with only 1kW which gets weaker and weaker as we get further and further away from Nova Scotia. It usually works during daylight hours almost at the Bermuda latitude but that's stretching it. Good thing that I am sending traffic to VCO and not receiving...They get me fine on whatever HF working freq I'm using as I choose carefully. After I can't hear VCO on 446kHz any more, I put my tfc on INMARSAT-A at high cost. I'll be damned if I'll send tfc in Voice. I've never done it in 30 years and I won't degrade myself at this late stage.

I do maintain CW service though even after I can't

work VCO any longer by sending all my Weather Observations (OBS), the bathythermograph observations (BATHY) and our ship movement report messages to the US Coast Guard (AMVER) by using one of the few remaining US commercial marine radio stations, usually Global Radio Network which, from Mobile (Ala.) Radio/WLO, controls two other stations, i.e. Tuckerton (N.J.) Radio/WSC and Seattle (Wash.) Radio/KLB. I can also use the other company in the States which controls from San Francisco Radio/KFS three other stations,

i.e. San Francisco Radio/KPH, Slidell (La.) Radio/WNU and WCC (formerly located at Cape Cod but now located at Slidell also). And on very rare occasions, I will send an OBS or AMVER to Bermuda Harbour Radio/ZBM or Nassau Radio/C6N on the MF CW band after calling them on 500kHz, if in range. Unfortunately, both stations display extremely poor watchkeeping on 500kHz. In fact, I think that C6N doesn't even have an antenna connected to their receiver! ZBM appears to have the same problem. I know for a fact that at ZBM, there are a couple of oprs who HATE CW....(simply because they could never handle it properly).

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I'm 51, divorced, father of two (Skylar, 20 and Evangeline, 12) children who are living with me in Windsor and I am working for the Dept. of National Defense of Canada as a civilian Gov't Ship Officer on the Canadian Navy's only civilian-manned deep-sea vessel. My regular ship (they are both research-vessels) is CFAV "Quest"/CZDO, which is in a 2-year mid-life refit in Newfoundland, is the better of the two but had we not had this (formerly) West Coast-based vessel handed over to us when the Federal Gov't closed the research opns of the Navy in the Pacific, we (the ship's complement) probably would have been laid off for 2 years! (Not a good prospect).

I started as a Radio Officer in Dec 1967 on an old tramp-ship called S/S "Cabahawk"/ZIOX which took me from Montreal to Honolulu. Twenty-three ships followed over the 30 years and this includes about 8 years ashore, most of these spent working at combined marine/aeradio stations (Vancouver Radio/VAL and Prince Rupert Radio/VAJ) and purely marine stns (Grindstone Radio/VCN and Halifax Radio/VCS where I spent 5 years...at the peak of CW comms in the late '70s and very early '80s). I hold a First Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radio-telegraphy. Lately I've had to take that stupid 2-week GMDSS (Global

Maritime Distress & Safety System) operator course which led to an "instant" radio-operator certificate which all ships' Mates are proud in obtaining as they can now claim that they know just as much in marine radio-communications as any Radio Officer does. Sad, very sad, but Mates are like that!

I'm including 2 or 3 little notes re. CW. You'll see that the Canadian Gov't is one of the worst administrations in the world with regards to Morse comms, the Gov't having made its mind up to eliminate it any way they can and this, as long ago as when I started my career! Every cutback, they have always done in the most secretive way possible. Of course, how could the Canadian Gov't show off to the rest of the world if they didn't push high tech in order to benefit Canadian electronics companies, in addition to subsidizing these heavily?? It doesn't look good in the eyes of someone you want to impress by high tech comms equip if some of your own ships still use "antiquated" Morse equipment, does it?

Well, a lot of people (including the Navy) have tried in many ways to shut me down insofar as Morse is concerned, but none has succeeded yet. In fact, when I joined CYWK, there was no Morse facilities onboard except a terrible HF system which is not really designed for CW work but can be used if one is willing to put up with umpteen problems relating to actual working (e.g. no possibility of QSK which makes efficient working impossible). So I had hidden two transmitters (one MF, one HF) over the years (right from under the Navy's eyes), keeping them in a closet on CZDO.

When I joined CYWK last February (1997), I installed (not without many structural problems to conquer) the two and now am running a full MF/HF CW service as all ships should. I keep quiet about it, but I'm sure someone in the Navy must suspect that I am CW-capable as I never ever send the Navy any traffic directly as they can only offer Voice (SSB) comms, yet they get from VCO my daily tfc. "How does VCO get our own CYWK's tfc???" they must question themselves.

I send all to VCO (free-of-charge as they are Gov't-operated and we are also Gov't) in CW and they, in turn, send it down the line on FAX to the Naval Radio Station at MillCove (South of Halifax) (callsign: CFH) for the latter to disseminate it by putting it on their router system which reaches all Naval addressees indicated on the message. The only problem is when CFH has tfc for me! They send a tfc list

on 6694kHz SSB on the hour to which I listen when on watch. If they have tfc for me, I call them in Voice on that freq and they (usually) ask me to see them on FAX via satellite (INMARSAT-A) as they are no more keen than I am to send the message by Voice (actually, if it had been left to the Navy oprs as to whether or not to keep CW in service instead of some Commander somewhere at headquarters who is totally out of touch with reality, I probably would still today have a CW (blind) bcst from CFH on which to copy my shore-to-ship tfc.).

This has been a very frustrating situation over the years. I dearly love Morse and will use it for as long as I can. Who knows? I may be the very last guy to send a message in Morse in Marine communications in the Atlantic one day. I hope not, though: my wish is for other (younger) Radio Officers to keep it going for as long as THEY can after I retire.

If anyone would be interested in monitoring CW transmissions from CYWK handling regular comms with WSC or WLO, I usually call on 8368 or 8367.5 at about 1210Z and 2310z daily, listening to WLO or WSC on their working freq (WLO = 8472, WSC = 8680) and then move off to my working freq (either 8352 or 8375.5). At 1810Z, at least where we are now (Bahamas area), I call on 12552 or 12551.5, listening to WLO on 12704.5 or WSC on 12879.5. After they answer me, I shift to 12464 or 12425. At those times, I'm sending the WX OBS I've just taken and coded myself. The OBS could also be followed by a BATHY or even an AMVER message. This is going to happen from about April 17 until about May 16th when I would start working VCO as we get closer and closer to Nova Scotia. Off the Eastern Seaboard between Charleston and Halifax, I'm likely to use 6mHz and 8mHz with WSC rather than 8mHz and 12mHz with WLO (same opr handling both transmitter sites, he just answers ships using one call-sign or the other, i.e. whichever one was picked by the ship). If I use 6mHz, then I'll call either on 6276 or 6278.5 and listen to WSC on 6484.5 (altho the opr will key all of WSC's HF TXs simultaneously when answering the ship). Again I would do this at the times mentioned earlier.

If you get a chance please inform Dick Berry K8UGL of Columbus Ohio that his initiative paid off when he sent me an application for FISTS. 73 for now, Paul

## **'Another' Licensing Perspective** by Vance N8UGV

When I first entered the hobby of amateur radio as a no-code tech, I would hear higher classed hams talking about the "no-good no-codes." In fact, I was told on the air by one ham who refused to give his call sign, to "Go back to CBI!". It was a shock to me that an "Elmer", or at the very least someone who should know better, would put down a new ham but also break the law by not identifying. It set my respect of more experienced hams back about four steps. I was very frustrated but eventually upgraded to Advanced. I tried to get my speed up for Extra but thought it impossible - too hard even with the help of some very understanding Extras. So I gave up trying.

After 3 years away from CW and 2 years off HF altogether I got back on the air last September. I made myself operate CW, 3 CW contacts for every SSB contact. Then I decided to try to get my WAS 40m CW certificate and as a result fell in love with CW. I am not a CW "elitist" but operate CW a vast majority of the time. In November I achieved Extra and STILL respect Tech-lights but do everything I can to encourage them to upgrade. It was so "difficult" to get my speed up I thought I would never make Extra.

To newer hams reading this - it is NOT impossible nor too "difficult". Let's put this into perspective. Below is a letter I received from a Czech ham, Zdenek, OK1FGF, I met on 15m CW this past January. We have stayed in contact via e-mail and are waiting for conditions to improve to continue QSO's on CW. I asked him what it took to obtain a license in the Czech Republic.

Read this and you might rethink how difficult it really is to get a license in America. The content of his letter is unchanged but I did "translate" parts of the letter because his English is quite broken.

"Hello Vance Thank you for the e-mail. I am happy that in today's era that somebody prefers CW. To my operations I devote a majority of time to CW. For me CW has magic. It is a dimension beyond SSB. I feel that I am in another world when I hear a CW signal on the set.

Now to your inquiry. Czech has 4 amateur radio classes. They are Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D. Class A is the highest class and can operate all modes on HF and UHF with a power output of 500 watts. Class B is the same but power is limited to 300 watts. Class C is dull SSB and only 100 watts. Class D may only operate UHF and do not need to know CW.

ISSUE 3 1998

A Class A licensee may seek to upgrade to use 1500 watts. Trial for license is necessary, put together before committee buro (ministry to the right and connection - inspectorship radio communication). [That was a direct quote] The test is perhaps 400 questions. [He used "400 interrogation"] Further practical CW test from Class C and Class D to upgrade. Anyone interested about ham radio may apply ["plea" was used here] to first obtain a Class D or C. After 1 year of practice a ham may seek to upgrade into a higher class. Class A must document a minimum of 2 years practice and must have made at least 3000 QSO's, noncontest or repeaters. At once A is obliged document confirmation of 200 Country DXCC. [I'm not sure what that meant] I'm applying this year for a Class A license and my call will change from OK1FGF to OK1GF.

It would be a poor choice to pull down CW, that with acts about no-perspective operation. [again, not sure what he meant] They endeavor to eliminate CW for trial of license. Many exist, friend, who support CW. It'd was meanwhile all. [what?] Once more thank you for your e-mail and I look forward to further. Maybe we can arrange a sked. Let me know. Take care and God Bless! Zdenek OK1FGF"

So what do you think now? We really do have it easy off here in the USA. We are able to go from Tech-light to Extra in a single sitting. No, he didn't mention how fast they had to copy but he did say 3000 noncontest or repeater contacts, and 2 years minimum practice. 3000 contacts? I would have given up before I started. So next time you hear someone complaining that the requirements to upgrade are too difficult, please share with them this story but **RESPECT THEIR OPINION**. They may have no desire to learn CW. As big a shame as that would be we still live in a free country. I could only hope it might give them another perspective on the true ease we have here in America, especially with regard to ham radio.

### **\*\*\* SPECIAL EVENT \*\*\***

The First State Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a Special Event on Saturday May 9, 1998 operating with a special call of K3N to commemorate the commissioning of Delaware's Tall Ship, the "Kalmar Nyckel". Two rigs will be in operation both CW and SSB in the General portions of the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands from 8am till 6pm. For more info on the Kalmar Nyckel, check out their web page at <<http://www.kalnyc.org>>

## News And Views From FISTS Members

Just had a super QSO with Patti **AF9H** #1785, the better half of Jess **AI9L** #1772! Patti reported her QTH as Braceville, and I knew that to be Jess' town from previous QSOs with him. He has been keeping tabs on my progress toward my first Century award. Thought this might be more than a coincidence, to have two FISTS both with Centuries in the same small town, so asked if she was Jess' other half. What a pleasant surprise! Patti turned the key over to Jess for the second part of a very FB FISTS QSO! I have to find Jess on the air again, though! I got so excited I forgot to send my CC NR to him!

What a nice way to top off the day after passing my Extra class exams! 73, Nick **N3YVW** #3549

Ten days ago I passed my Advanced Theory Exam. *Thanks to FISTS contacts*, the 20wpm code test was a snap. My new callsign is **KU4OZ** (I'm already hearing "Da Wiz" on FM xptrs) Johnnyex **KE4ZQD**, FISTS # 2129

After being off the HF bands for four years (!), I am back on with 10 meters only. At least that is a start. So, until my equipment improves, I'll be looking for FISTS on 10 meters. My little radio is an RCI 100 watt all mode 10-meter mobile rig. Please send my regards to an old friend, Don **KC4UUG**, in Florida. 73 Brian **N2UB**, #1042, formerly **AA2LK** *It's been a l-o-n-g time. That's great you're back on the air Brian!*

John **N8WPX** #3062 renewed his subs and included a note saying that FISTS member are the nicest people he has ever met. I have to agree with that, don't you?

Bill **W6DDB** #1525 suggests that the point system could be better for the Century award - he says "how about - novice/tech plus = 3 points; DX/club/YL= 2 points; others = 1 point." Well, that may have some merit, but not for the Century award. Can you imagine the logistics of the Award manager having to keep a list of who was a Novice/Tech on certain dates and verifying the logs. Plus we can't very well change the rules in midstream, it wouldn't be fair to the people who are currently working on their Century. Maybe sometime down the road, we'll reinstate the Worked 100 Novice/Tech Award.

I passed the 20 wpm code test, thanks to all the practice I get with FISTS members. Also just received a certificate from A-1 Operator Club. I'm pretty tickled about it all. Now I'll get after the Extra Theory...won't be long! 73 Dave **KF6DCU** #2398

From Robert **KB7AQD**, #3478: With the improving solar cycle, I still am surprised at the utter lack of activity from 28525-29000 kHz, even during contests. Have some ideas for some FISTS CW center of operations:

**28558 28658 28758 28858 28958 kHz**

Set up your automatic keyers to send a CQ call on any of these frequencies, and see if any other hams will respond. On paper, this would be a primary SSB range -- if ANYONE bothered to use it. We CW ops need to do something about it, or the pirates will use the subbands we hams choose to ignore.

**Working with Plexiglass Hint:** Ed **W2BVJK** #2495, sends along this tip - Use any light oil such as 3 in 1, sewing machine oils, etc. Put some oil on spot to be drilled. **DO NOT** try to fly through the material because of using the oil. **GO SLOW**, just a few turns at a time. When finished you should have a clean hole with no cracks or fractures. With this method you can use regular drill bits. It works for me - Happy Drilling!

Ben **N0SOT** #3086 sends in his renewal with the note to say that all he hears about FISTS on the air is very complimentary, like "best club on the air" and "wish I'd joined sooner". Ben is VA disabled and on oxygen 24 hours a day, but between the Bible and using CW, he's quite content. Ben falls in the 15-17 wpm range and uses a J-38 straight key; if you hear him on the air be sure to say hi to him!

Harry **AE4QS** says he has enjoyed the past year as a FISTS member very much. He has made over 200 contacts and he considers each one a new friend. Not one single person has ever been any less than what you would expect from a FIRST CLASS operator. His only regret is that he hasn't gotten a QSL from Geo **GX0IPX/GB0FCW**. That's probably my fault Harry. I must have overlooked it if you sent him a QSL to him via the FISTS PO Box 47 or my QTH. If you send the QSO info for **GX0IPX** to me again, I'll get a card out to you. I can't help with the **GB0FCW** card though.

## FOR SALE

Ameritron AL-811H watt high frequency linear amplifier in original shipping box, and with instruction manual. Never used. \$700

AntennasWest Basic Solar Power Supply \$150

Azimuth Worked All Zones 3-ring binder QSL library with see-through card holders. New. \$10

Code practice cassette tapes which can take one from no knowledge of the International Morse Code to a receiving speed of about 13 words per minute. 15 in set. \$30/set

Code practice 7-inch reel tapes, from which above cassettes were copied, 7 in set. \$30/set

CQ/HR/Ham Radio Horizons/QST/73 magazines at \$2 each. CQ and 73 hard covers for pre-1976 (small) magazines at \$2 each, plus \$2 more each to pay shipping. Each binder is complete with the wires required to hold the magazines.

Gigoire PTT-2000 microphone push-to-talk switch with 5' cord. \$14.95 new. Unused \$3

MFJ-931 Artificial Ground. Needs a potentiometer. With manual. \$35

Mirage B-310-G 100 watt 2-meter all-modes amplifier with 15-db receive preamplifier built in. Brand new and in original box with data sheet. \$100

QSL File. Double metal drawer which holds cards up to 5 by 8". Good condition. \$10

QSL File. Double wood drawer which holds cards up to 5 by 8 inches. Needs painting. \$3

Rectifiers. Four 200PVI 1.5A S-S Bridge. new \$1/set

Reprint of 1884 J. H. Bunnell Learners of Telegraphy Students" Manual. A collector's item. \$5

Shipping charges are in addition to stated prices.

For additional info send SASE to Bill Welsh W6DDB, 45527 3rd Street East, Lancaster CA 93535-1802

## New Straight Key From G4ZPY

From Gordon G4ZPY: "This one is "Big Brother" to the "Baby". We have had many requests for an intermediate size key for Portable work, so we thought that it was about time that we catered for the Straight Key Buffs.

The Base is made from Black Plastic, 3" x 2" x 1/2" with Baize underneath it. The Key arm is 3/8" square Brass x 3" long, and mounted in a "U" shaped Yoke. Adjustable Contact has a silver tip, and is locked in position with a "thumb wheel". The Contact has 40 threads to the inch, so the adjustment is very fine. Spring adjustment is virtually the same as our normal size key. It can be purchased in either Polished Brass or Nickel Plated finish. Price for the Brass £40. - Nickel £45 Post to U.S. £5.

The knob on it is Brass, but insulated from the key arm. We have only made the prototype so far, but we are very pleased with it. Best Regards, Gordon.

## Russian Paddle/Keyer Available

Milestone Technologies is now distributing the Key-8 paddle/keyer made by ElectroInstrument, a former Soviet Military contractor specializing in aerospace equipment and electronics.

The body of the Key-8 is perfectly polished chrome and the base plate is made from 3/8" solid brass and weighs almost three and a half pounds. Paddle tension and spacing are independently adjustable. There is a small amount of "tactile feedback" which makes it feel a bit like a magnetic paddle, but it's mechanical. The contacts are silver.

The built-in electronic keyer is not iambic, squeezing both paddles will result in a string of either dits or dahs, not alternating dits and dahs. Instructions for bypassing the keyer are provided (in English) so the paddle can be used with an external keyer, or the built-in keyer can be replaced with an iambic one. A sidetone oscillator is included and the speed is set from a knob on the top of the body. Speed range is 5-50 WPM. Output keying is by means of an internal metal thread relay, so the key line is electrically isolated from the keyer and you don't have to worry about polarity or voltage (within specified limits). All connections to the keyer are by way of a 5-pin DIN plug

It's priced at \$129.95. Milestone Technologies, 3140 S Peoria St Unit K-156, Aurora CO 80014. See a photo/more info at <<http://www.mtechnologies.com>>

A tongue in cheek look at some new abbreviations that I think would be helpful for today's bands.

**QSJ** - Quit Sending Junk! You must be sending in a dialect unique to your area because it sure ain't coming out as English!

**QCS** - Contest Starting. Pleased be informed I am keeping this frequency for the next 2 days so any nets or broadcast stations under 10,000 watts will be obliterated by the signal from my super contest set-up.

**QCC** - Computer crashed. I have to shut down my station because every piece of equipment I own is tied into my computer and it just blew up!

**QKQ** - Keyboard quit. I must stop sending now because my keyboard is dying and I don't know how to use anything else!

**QNC** - No code. Sorry, OM, but I don't know code so quit QRM'ing the fone net with your silly dididit dadadah dididit

**QCL** - Computer logging. Don't bother sending your name, QTH, social security no., or blood type because my logging program got all this from your call!

**QSK** - Full break-in. What do you mean? I wasn't aware that my house was being robbed!

**QRF** - Restricted frequency. Sorry Old Top, but this frequency belongs to the Cuss and Carp Group, if you don't use language that would make a sailor blush at least every third sentence then you must QSY!

**QWH** - Wrist Hurting. I can only send for 5 minutes because my SSX-1000 Super Send electronic keyer is on the blink and this (\*#o\$%) straight key is killing my wrist!

**QPD** - Processor dependent. Sorry old man, but I am so used to hearing everyone talk with their processor set on stun that I can't understand a clean signal!

Just kidding guys, please don't beat me with a live long wire! Marty **WD4AXJ**  
Professional Mangler of Morse code

The very essence of amateur radio is that we are trained communicators, so why do over half the QSO's you hear consist of the Hi, Bye, it's been fun, see you later variety? A typical QSO goes like this: Report, QTH, name. Then they really get long-winded and tell you their Band Blaster FX-1 million runs 190 watts, and their dipole is x feet in the air. Hey guys, here's a news flash, ALL Band Blaster FX-1 millions run 190 watts, so why even mention it? Tell the other guy something he already doesn't know or you're just filling the air with inanities.

I've found that to carry on a good conversation pretend your face to face with the other operator and ask him (or her) questions just as if you were two feet apart instead of the 800 miles you're really separated by. I look for common interest in other hobbies; (Jim, you ever try pole vaulting? Hey, me too!) In other words, find something you are both interested in talking about. There can't be anything more boring to the other guy than going on forever with a subject he knows absolutely nothing about. (FB on being a Phys-Ed teacher Jim, here am a nuclear Physicist, did I tell you about the problem I had with focusing the electron beam on our 1 Tev particle accelerator the other day at M.I.T.? Well let me tell you, blah, blah, blah, ad nauseum.) Well, you get my point, keep the conversation on common ground and you both will enjoy the QSO.

Another interesting topic you might share is how you solve a problem you both have in common. (Say Jim, I've found that duct tape is a super cure for sound proofing the shack. The kids have even turned it into a game to see who can remove it the fastest without damaging their lips!) All kidding aside, you can have a more enjoyable QSO by learning the lost art of conversation, and a long chat is also good practice for your code skills. After all, the more time spent on the air, the better your sending and receiving skills become.

Hope to see you on the air soon for a reeeaaaal long QSO, Marty, **WD4AXJ**  
Look for Marty at night on 40, around 7.035

It is time to raise an important issue: use of Morse code in acute care situations. As the World War II generation ages, and as Morse code is used more and more as an aid for the disabled, there is a small but significant population that knows code who are presenting to acute care facilities in conditions where their normal communication is impaired. I would like to suggest several simple steps that could enable Morse code to be used more often (and more effectively) in these situations. These are:

1. Develop a Morse code knowledge emergency ID wallet card, with an explanation and code chart, and distribute it via Morse 2000, ARRL, and other Morse-interested organizations. (See suggested version below.)
2. Develop a page on Morse code use to be incorporated in standard emergency room manuals.
3. Develop a "Morse code in the E.R." familiarization video training tape oriented to emergency room professionals. Preferably have it certified for continuing education credits. The intent would not be to get ER personnel to memorize the code, but to know how to recognize that a patient might know Morse code, where to find a Morse code translator, and how to use code to communicate with the patient using a Morse code chart (and where to find the chart).
4. Encourage incorporation of Morse code information in living wills of people who know the code. For example, my living will contains the following language: "I am familiar with the Morse code, and my attorney should use a person knowledgeable in the Morse code as evidenced by a current amateur or commercial FCC license that includes a code element to try to communicate with me."

[MORSEls is the newsletter of the Morse 2000 Worldwide Outreadh, promoting research in and use of Morse Code in Rehabilitation and Education. A collaborative effort of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Office of Continuing Education in Human Sciences and Services, the Trace Research and Development Center at UW-Madison, and The Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education. For more info or to subscribe to their newsletter (two issues per year) write to the Editor, Thomas W King, Dept of Communication Disorders, 121 HSS Bldg, UW-EC, Eu Claire, WI USA 54702. Email is kingtw@uwec.edu. They are also looking for articles for their newsletter.]

*Here are my ideas for a Morse code pocket card. — ARNOLD REINHOLD*

## I KNOW MORSE CODE

If I am unable to communicate by other means, I may be able to use Morse code. Observe me for any movement that appears to be a combination of longs and shorts or other alternating movements. You may also tap code on my body

<b>A</b> . -	<b>M</b> - -	<b>Y</b> - . - -	<b>Period</b> . . . . -
<b>B</b> - . . .	<b>N</b> - .	<b>Z</b> - - . -	<b>Comma</b> - - . . . -
<b>C</b> - . . -	<b>O</b> - - -	<b>0</b> - - - -	<b>?</b> . . . . .
<b>D</b> - . -	<b>P</b> . - . -	<b>1</b> . - - -	<b>=</b> - . . . -
<b>E</b> .	<b>Q</b> - . - -	<b>2</b> . . - -	<b>/</b> - . . . -
<b>F</b> . . . -	<b>R</b> . - .	<b>3</b> . . . -	<b>Error</b> . . . . .
<b>G</b> - - .	<b>S</b> . . .	<b>4</b> . . . -	<b>Wait</b> . - . .
<b>H</b> . . . .	<b>T</b> -	<b>5</b> . . . .	<b>Message received</b> . .
<b>I</b> . .	<b>U</b> . - .	<b>6</b> - . . .	<b>Your turn to send</b> - .
<b>J</b> . - - -	<b>V</b> . . . -	<b>7</b> - - . .	<b>Hello (CQ)</b> - . - . . -
<b>K</b> - . -	<b>W</b> . - -	<b>8</b> - - . .	<b>Help (SOS)</b> . . . . .
<b>L</b> . - . .	<b>X</b> - . . -	<b>9</b> - - - .	<b>Laughter (HI)</b> . . . . .

## International Morse Preservation Society

Up-dated listings and badges may be obtained from HQ. For listings, SAE plus current stamp. Badges, £1.50

Obtainable from HQ. £4.00 per 100 or £7.00 per 200. UK and European members add 50p p/p, others on advice.

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label. Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Full or US listing 3 2nd class stamps, EU 2 stamps. No envelope necessary. **Lapel Badges**, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl. **QSL Cards** £5.00 per 100 or £8.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add 50p for p/p. DX members - on advice. Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet (65), max order 5 sheets.

**SUBS:** UK £5.00, EEC £6.00, Non-EEC EU, £7.00. Others £10.00.

Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

**The QRP Component Company**  
**Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump)**  
**Used keys of all types bought and sold**  
**SAE/IRC for prices/data**  
PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF  
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

### SAMSON KEYERS

- ETM-1C Iambic keyer (no paddles)
- \*ETM9COG-X3 Memory Keyer (no paddles)
- \* ETM9C-X3 (built in paddles)
- ETM-SQ Twin Paddle Key

\* These two models have exactly the same circuitry as the world-famous USA CMOS Superkeyer 3 (16 memories plus Auto-Contest numbers etc).

SAE/IRC for details to:

G5BM, Woodland View, Birches Lane, Newent, GL18 1DN  
Tel: 01531-820960

**ACCURACY**  
**TRANSCENDS**  
**SPEED**

## International Morse Preservation Society

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd.,  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

### NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058

Tues: G0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058

Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS  
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/POFFICES

**QSL Manager: G0FRL. Bob Lowe**

PO Box 190. BOLTON. BL1 4LL

U.S. Rep: WZ8C. Ms. Nancy Kott.  
5450 Diah Rd., METAMORA, MI 48455

**PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh**

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

**CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE**

Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9 0HY.  
Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd.,  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: [fist1@compuserve.com](mailto:fist1@compuserve.com)

### GREETINGS

Hello people. Well what a turn up for the books. Here in the UK, we have been having something of an Indian summer. Down on the South coast, our members have enjoyed temperatures of up to 17c when the norm for February would have been more like 5 or even less. As so often happens however, the bands have not acted in sympathy and there has been more noise than signals on 20m. Still managed to pull 'em in though and G0UQF appears to have taken up residence on 14.057 where he has been doing a brisk trade in Century numbers. Hi. QSLs from here this month include K3CJQ, W4OGZ, N3MUT, OH8US, OZ7KDJ, K3AS, N3XT, IK2WYW, OZ2RX, W4MA, N8UOO, W4ZCR and K7MOA together with a handful of first QSOs from UK and EU, many of which were very recent members.

I note that many members are volunteering their Century number without actually being asked for it which does not quite fit in with the spirit of that which we intended. I know it is easy to trawl the bands and take notes of Century numbers which are passed on request from one member to another - we can hardly legislate against this - but we did anticipate (though not strictly specify) that members seeking the Platinum would already be holders of the Century award to say the least and possibly holders of the Gold. I know that many of our US members are a little taken aback to discover that G3ZQS does not hold a Century award. Well look at it this way, most of the time I will be running under the banner of GX0IPX and if this does not represent an unfair advantage then I would like to know what is. Hi.

It is good to see so many of you on the bands these days. We are really bringing the CW segments to life though there does seem to be a fair sprinkling of number chasers there. I hesitate to condemn this - if members are keen on getting the last few entries for their Platinum etc., then this is fair enough but do please guard against refusing to work non members. This is not an elite club. Our aim should be to foster the use of CW and not to stifle it so in this sense, the non member is just as important as members. I have never heard anyone refuse to work such a station incidentally, and to my knowledge none have been reported here. I mention this only to steer you away from such a temptation should it present itself even if you are seeking that last number on your claim form. Hi.

### SILENT KEY

Advised by his daughter, I am sorry to record the passing of David, G3MAM and FISTS Number 0497.

### INFO REQUIRED

Dear Geo.

*Thanks for the surprise call last night-and apologies for not staying on too long but I was starting to flag a little!! You were a good 589 down here, despite only using a mag loop. I was using an Icom IC725, (100w),but I do have an interesting CW only tx from the 1960's. It is a MK234, made by the diplomatic wireless service and used by British Embassies abroad as a backup tx. It runs about 40W o/p from a single 6146, and Xtal controlled. Thanks to various readers of "Radio Bygones", I managed to get a full manual and it is now back to 100% working. I also use, with both rigs, the Keying Unit Type 949 made by Eddystone- a 19 inch rack affair with all transistor logic (OC206 bistables!). I would be delighted to know if any FISTS members have any information about this unit, or indeed any recollection of using a MK234. I am not sure what receiver it was used with. I myself use my RA17 to be authentic!. Keeping both units on the same QRG reminds me what a real radio ops job was, keeps me busy on Sunday afternoons when the bands are not so much of a rat race except during contests of course. Thanks again, keep up the good work and HPE CUAGN. 73, Rob G4JNA.*

### SOUNDFIELD STEREO ADAPTOR

On reading the item in last month's Keynote concerning the 'stereo filter', Chris, G3TUX sent me the above item for assessment.

The idea I gather, is to create a pseudo stereo effect by imposing delays on the incoming signals and causing the result to be diverted to either left or right of a pair of stereo headphones. The effect is such that a signal will appear to be centred between your ears or offset either left or right dependent upon the pitch. With more than one signal being input, it is possible to concentrate on one particular signal by virtue of its apparent location. Actually, all this is far more difficult to describe than to experience but you can virtually "see" the signals and watch them shift from ear to ear depending on the direction you are tuning.

Having used the original design by Dud Charman, I am in the happy position of being able to do a fair comparison and I must start out by saying that whilst basically the effect is the same, the performance is far different.

Dud's original permitted you to alter the apparent shift and even to apply the input solely to one side of the headphones. The Soundfield does not have this facility and I soon realised why. There are two quite sharp filters which can be chosen from the front panel. One of 800Hz and the other of 1000Hz and any signal corresponding to the chosen centre frequency is automatically centred. Signals within the passband but falling outside this centre frequency are still evident but reside either left or right of centre.

My rig does not sport a 1KHz CW filter so I had to switch to 2KHz and mess around with the bandwidth control a little to simulate this value. I picked up a S3 signal, centred it at 800Hz and changed the centre frequency to 1000Hz which caused it's apparent position in space to shift to the right phone. Tuning this to the centre frequency immediately caused the signal to appear directly in front of me and the gain offered by the AF filter gave it quite a fair boost. Switching the adaptor out (a front panel push button permits this) produced a completely different sound. Flat with noise. Back to the adaptor and 800Hz and a touch on the tuning placed the signal at centre and at a frequency more to my liking.

There is a measure of echo particularly with strong signals which can easily be ignored unless you choose to reduce the gain in which case it is no longer apparent. This however does appear on keying if your side tone like mine is of a fixed amplitude. With the pump handle, it makes not one jot of difference but I found

myself producing some pretty gawky CW until the volume of the keyers' side tone output was stronger than that appearing in the phones.

The front-panel control for F(ast) or S(low) has little effect and even with station steaming along at some 40wpm, the slow position still left them readable.

Even with the sharp filtering fitted to the FT1000MP in circuit, the sound was still vastly different than straight through. All I can tell you folks is that if you try this box of tricks, Morse will never again sound the same without it. Incidentally, although the gadget is inscribed "adaptor", my spelling checker threw this out but happily accepted "adapter".

### AWARDS

Initially, we had some problems with claims for the Platinum Award when some members had not been given the correct Century Award number. Bob supplies numbers on request from his opposite number in the US but a period of one-way communication seems to have resulted in a few mix-ups. These anomalies have now been ironed out but Bob will probably have to take earlier errors into account for a while.

Whilst we are not playing "awkward", numbers quoted will be carefully checked by Bob to ensure that they tally. The first Platinum threw up several incorrect numbers at least one of which was incorrectly supplied by the holder. Others could be ascribed to inaccurate reading or just plain typos. There was quite a lot of back and forth e-mailing over this one before Bob finally got everything sorted out but we now have a dedicated database for awards which is shared by both Bob and myself so all should be reasonably plain sailing henceforth.

Another query concerns the Century award and club stations. If you work a club station, you may claim three points for the contact and will be given a number which will correspond to the member operating the station at that time. If the same member then turns up with another club call, forget it. You have already claimed that number. This works in exactly the same way as with US members who take out vanity calls. You have to be wary of this because you may not know at the time that you have already claimed that same number under a different call. Bob however will disallow this entry. The easiest way to avoid this trap is to keep a check sheet showing number v call and then cross refer the number. If it shows up, then your contact is not valid as a point.

With the Platinum, you are expected to disregard any claims made under either Century or Gold and start again. We do not propose that any contacts made for these awards should not be claimed again. If you have already claimed the member for Century or Gold (or even Diamond) then a fresh contact date would be anticipated.

Hope this has cleared up any nagging questions. Hi.

### INDECENT LANGUAGE

One of the goals FISTS member Joe Falcone N8TI has during his term as ARRL Great Lakes Director is to take those who use indecent language off the amateur bands. Joe is looking for tape recordings of alleged offenders to use as proof to the FCC that the problem is nationwide. The tapes have to be of good quality and clearly demonstrate that a violation has taken place. The best way to do this is make a direct connection between your receiver and the tape recorder. Send the tape to Joe Falcone, 9614 Arden Ave, Livonia MI 48150. Be sure to include information about the transmission - frequency, time, date along with your name and any information you may have of the alleged offender.

This may at first appear to have nothing whatsoever to do with UK or EU but we are also subject to this unfortunate craze which appears to be creeping into transmission by amateurs in the States. I have yet to confirm that the RSGB is prepared to take some action against UK stations found guilty of using such objectionable terminology. My suggestion for the moment is that such tape recordings be forwarded to whichever National Society you subscribe to and ask what action they are able or propose to take.

As I mentioned last month, comments of political, ethnic or religious nature are surely unacceptable and should be treated in the same way as bad language. At the present moment, the amateur bands are relatively 'clean' but I am certain that our security of tenure demands that they should be 'squeaky' clean.

### ODDS 'N ENDS

#### AWARDS

During January, we issued a further GOLD award (Nr. 010) to N4RSD together with Platinums (001 and 002) to KC5VJU and AC6TO. We actually skipped a number here because Gold number 009 was inadvertently allocated to N9NVV who submitted the

claim on behalf of N4RSD but this was not discovered until after the Certificate had been despatched so will be corrected with the next award.

#### CONGESTION ON 14058

I have a suggestion that QSOs be restricted - presumably in order to clear the frequency for others but this is a long way from practical. Remember that our recommended QRG of 14058 represents nothing more than a starting point. If it is QRL, just drop down until you find a clear spot. Most members will (as I do myself) generally trawl the spectrum from 14058 plus down to 14052 plus. 14052 is the same "starting point" for the RNARS and, witnessing our downwards migration in busy conditions they will no doubt adopt the same tack.

#### SUBS

A number of you have voiced the opinion that the subs should be increased to keep pace with rising costs not only of postal rates but also of materials. Quite honestly, I am loathe to do this because of the number of members who are on a fixed income. We already receive many donations over and above the subscription level and rather than impose a blanket increase of subs, I would prefer that those who wish (and are able) to do so, continue to add a little extra. At the AGM therefore, I shall be again proposing no increase in the present subscription rates.

#### NOVICE ROUNDUP

An e-mail from Nancy reminded me that the Novice Roundup was running the weekend of Feb 13 and could I spare a little time to make the club call available on these bands. Unfortunately, 20M is not available to the Novices and the only other band practical was 15m which was barely open to Europe. Members will no doubt be aware that since the ARRL abandoned this event, it has been maintained by the US FISTS contingent and I wish them much success.

#### LISTING ON DISC

There is a little confusion here. Let me clarify that the 'listing' is exactly that. It is an up-to-date list of ALL members ordered on both call and number and in both ASCII and dBase form. The Log is a different thing altogether and applies to those who are running my logging system. This comprises a number of dBase files based loosely upon location (Europe, UK, Germany, DX and USA) and what you get here is a FISTS oriented extract from these files. Just a reminder also that those of you with computers can employ just about any spread sheet from the cheapest to the most elaborate, to maintain a log for Century and other claims purposes. You do not need the sophistication of a full

blown relational database.

#### CONGRATS

Dwight, W9YQ (previously KB9JAI) # 2764 has up-graded to Extra. Richard, KK7LB (previously KC7LSO) # 1990 has up-graded to advanced and Jan, N0QT (previously KB0WQT) has up-graded to extra.

#### 10th ANNIV SPECIAL EVENT

A number of US stations participated in the /FSE activity proposed by Nancy and from all accounts had a whale of a time.

#### RESTORATION PROJECT

Chuck, KB2E is a member of a committee of volunteers bent on recreating the telegraph station at his Union Railway station which was served by NY Central and Delaware/Hudson from 1904 to 1965. He is targeting US members for authentic RR equipment to furnish the telegraphers station and the organisation responsible (Historic Saranac Lake) is hoping to run rail excursions from Saranac Lake to Lake Placid. Visiting members may care to pop in and take a shufti.

#### FIVE TON AND RADIO HAMS

Robert, KB7AQD, reading the G3TUX report on the UK shore stations, suggests that those with the facilities should spend a few minutes on the hour checking the distress frequency (500 KHz) because Murphys law being what it is, even those vessels who can afford the highly sophisticated systems may well find in an emergency that it fails to deliver. You never know when a rare SOS may suddenly arise and it would undoubtedly give no small measure of satisfaction to advise the coast guard. Good thinking Robert.

#### OT IN ACTION

Our 96-year-old FISTS member, Aubrey Keel W0AKL (ex-KB0ZE), gave a Morse demonstration on the old sounder at the 150th Anniversary of Associated Press Wednesday, January 21

#### NEW MEMBERS

We continue to grow even on the UK and EU front and I am pleased to offer a welcome to the following who have joined us since your last update :

3758	G2FRZ Bill	3759	GD4HIT
Carole			
3760	G0WXC Roy	3761	G3JRY Selwyn
3762	G3XZQ Ron	3763	G4ZGP Geoff
3764	DL5SE Dan	3765	G4CDR Adrian
3766	F5VCE Tony	3767	G0IEE Keith
3768	G3BOX Bill	3769	G3AFV Ted
3770	G0WYW David	3771	GM0LKT
Tony			

We have another member of the Clergy in the person

of Adrian, G4CDR and, having worked the gent often, I am delighted to particularly welcome Selwyn, G3JRY.

### THE LADDER

Gerry, GM4BAE submits the latest positions remarking that he would ask the members to think seriously about the ladder hoping that a spell of reduced activity was due to commitments after the festive season. He considers that when the amateur bands are looked at, there may well be too many contests and people are heartily sick of them. The ladder is intended to be more like that of a normal QSO or even a get together of members.

Call	Mbr-total		NonMbrs	
Prev	Total			
G4LHI	33	6	108	
147				
G0MRH	32	0	35	67
PA3AFF	8	0	51	59
G4PTE	20	3	18	41
G4RBE	12	0	28	40
G0VCY	4	0	18	22
G0WLC	8	0	0	8
G0VYR	6	0	0	6

He has fastened his safety belt ready for the onslaught following the Straight Key week and on a personal note, you will certainly find GX0IPX active on the usable bands. If what I have heard during the past few months is anything to go by, there are quite a few of you who take a great deal of pleasure in pounding brass the old fashioned way. Long may it continue thus.

### HELP !!!!

It has happened again. I have here a Girocheque for £7.00 originating in ROMA bearing the a/c number 4107322 and dated 13 Feb 1998. There is absolutely no indication of WHO THIS IS FROM and it is causing me a big headache and much extra work. This is a very convenient way for EU members to pay their subs but there should be an accompanying letter explaining that the Girocheque has been ordered and despatched. PLEASE. Will whoever sent this let me know.

Another source of extra work and frustration are cheques arriving for subs but with no call sign. Sometimes, not even a number is quoted and I then have to search for a name which agrees with that on the cheque and frequently enough there is more than one so I have to start comparing the banks' sub office with the addresses. ALL reference to members are on their Call sign because this is unique. PLEASE remember to put this vital piece of identification in with your subs or any other correspondence. Thankyou.

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4SSH. Roys' CQ on 80m brough forth a very hesitant reply from Greece (or was it Slovenia... Sweden even) when the prefix was at varying times SV3, S53 and SH3. His own call came out with every combination from G4III to G4HHH so Roy mentally fastened his seat belt for a rough ride. The only bit which was half readable was "TV WELL ... SRI HR .... NR1 QSO WID BUG KEY .... TV". All this at 5wpm when a knife and fork would have been the more appropriate technology. He turned out to be a newly licensed novice from Sweden so Roy settled for SH3. Hi. G4ARL. VMT yours Bob. Any members with memories of 1034 sqdn (Surbiton), may share his experiences of learning the code from this source. The TLL54/TL55 pair which he had the privilege of operating on the Sunday mornings net was that which many members cut their teeth on and are still to be heard. With his own boys reaching the appropriate age, he was roped in to act as firstly civvy signals instructor and later as volunteer reserve officer, Adjutant of the squadron and Wing Radio Officer for Herts/Bucks. G3MCK. Hi Gerald. COA noted and yes QRZ? is frequently misinterpreted. Not so bad if you can get part of the call so that it becomes QRZ? G0 or QRZ? KM (being part of the suffix). I am sure you have had the same experience as myself when it is used in its proper sense - GX0IPX DE KA1AA QRZ W1AAA etc. G4UCJ. YL Jayne studying for the Novice exam so could be we have yet another YL FISTS member soon. Hi. G5RV squashed up in all manner of configurations to fit in loft but found KC5VJU, KA4IFF and 3B8CF. Doing well Sean, the latter is still absent from my log. Runs QRP group at local club so promoting FISTS and CW at the same time. Can't be bad. Hi. G3ZDD. The article on shore stations rang a bell because Ivor was befriended by the holder of a GPO cert who encouraged him to hark to 500KHz following which he successfully passed his CW. Fear not mate. There is no way the RA are gonna even try to ban CW on the amateur bands. It is none of their concern for a start off and it is also to their advantage. Status re subs still effective mate. 2E0ANK. Yes John, I understand your frustration when the whole world seems to be steaming along at a speed outside your capacity. Patience is the name of

the game because it comes to all but don't forget that if you are working a FIST, you are working a friend who will happily comply to your QRS PSE. Shack sounds like Churchills' bunker. Would like the gang to make the occasional call between 3.560 and 3.585 for such as himself. I sometimes migrate up to 3570+ but like you say, 2E0s are not all that thick on the ground. Hi. **G0SKR**. Our John retired disable from the Police force in 87 after 26 years following an incident when acting as canine handler. Resultant spinal damage means elbow-crutches and wheelchair whilst XYL Shirley offers support. Interestingly, they did some bionic man stuff on him in 95 with spinal Electronic implant located on-board. Radio controlled and linked to 8 electrodes located on the spine. An external TX controls the pain. Boy, and I thought I was having it rough. Hi. **G3BEC**. Nobby is a lone wolf. Tucked up by 2130 and hammock stowed by 0715. Usual chores to attend to but QRV whenever possible. Always a pleasure to find you on the bands mate. **GW4PXQ**. Hi George. Yes indeed, US membership is on an exponential upward curve. Hi. Hear the same bods as you do on 20 but expect that to change soon. **G0ORD**. Eric, if the QRM is affecting your broadcast radio, stick to your guns. As far as I understand, they gotta do something about it by law. However, vmt the info on the ANC4 noise canceller. If it works that well, I may be interested also. Hi. **G4ZGP**. Includes a story about Sam Morse who was also a successful artist and once painted a man in his death agony. "What's your opinion?" he asked of a Doctor friend who unhesitatingly replied "Malaria". **G5WW**. Hello Paul. I am saddened indeed to note that Bea is now a permanent resident of a nursing home with Alzheimers. Paul has his own problems physically but has the support of his family so is still at home. Manages the short drive for regular visits to see Bea. **G0SDA**. Colin, will definitely expand on your viewpoint re data when I get some space. I haven't forgotten.

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### FINALE

The AGM has been scheduled for Tuesday, 17 March at the Cemetery Hotel, Cemetery Rd, Darwen at 1930.

Nominations for offices in writing before that date pse and any members in the general area who would like to put something back into the hobby are invited to attend. We may need you.

I have a report of a few stations actually moaning about the bands being full of FISTS members. This would be great but I know that we generally occupy only the area from 14058 down to 14052. Apart from that, all they need do is to join us. Hi.

If these mild temps continue, spring will begin tomorrow but weather aside, I would love to see you on the bands. 73/88 people. Stay sober. Geo.

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### North American Issue Corrections

I had Chuck, #3376, **AA0SD**'s callsign incorrectly as **AA9SD** in the last KeyNote.

Glen's call #4102 was listed incorrectly as **W7GHO**. It should have been **W7GHQ**.

I STILL had Gerald, #1019, wrong in the Keynote Corrections last month. His correct call is **N4DG**. Sorry Gerald!

Steve **N8CPA** is the author of the CW song written to the tune which I incorrectly credited to Credence Clearwater Revival - it was originally recorded by The Band in 1969. Another version of the song was released a few years later by Judy Collins.

Steve also wrote different refrains for each verse. The refrains of the second and third verses were omitted from the Keynote--the first refrain was used on all three verses. The second refrain is:

Today they keep running old Morse down.  
 They are not even trying.  
 Today they keep running old Morse down.  
 They keep justifying  
 While they cry:  
 "WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH  
 I can't learn the code  
 No Way! No How!"

The third refrain is:

Today they keep running old Morse down  
 And it's the training they're needing  
 Today they keep running old Morse down.  
 They want more modems speeding  
 So they cry:  
 "WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!  
 Gimme HF! I demand it right now"

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That's all the room this month FISTS. This issue won't have a glossy cover, next month should have. We're working out bugs with the printer, so patience please! 73 88 Nancy **WZ8C**

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**WALT**  
By Aerie MARY, KRYST

I HOOKED UP 20 GRP UNITS IN  
PARALLEL TO GET 100 WATTS OUT...  
A LITTLE TOUGH TO TUNE, BUT THE  
SURROUND SOUND EFFECT IS VERY  
NICE...

